

Message Text

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ORIGIN AGR-20

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EAGR UR

SUBJ: USSR GRAIN CROP

1. USDA TASK FORCE ON USSR MET FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, FOR USUAL CONSIDERATION OF AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON USSR CROP SITUATION AND CONCLUDED THAT UPWARD REVISION OF 195 ESTIMATE NEEDED. CONTINUING INDICATIONS OF EXCEPTIONALLY HIGH WINTER GRAIN YIELDS, PLUS ABOVE NORMAL WEATHER AND CROP CONDITIONS SINCE ADOPTION OF 195 MILLION FIGURE WERE THE PRIMARY REASONS FOR MOVING TO A NEW ESTIMATE OF 200 MILLION TONS, TOTAL GRAINS. AREA, YIELD AND PRODUCTION ESTIMATES FOR EACH GRAIN WHICH MAKE UP THE 200 MILLION TOTAL ARE AS FOLLOWS:

	AREA	YIELD	PRODUCTION
WINTER WHEAT	16.0	25.0	40.0
SPRING WHEAT	46.5	11.8	55.0

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TOTAL WHEAT	62.5	15.2	95.0
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RYE	7.0	12.1	8.5
BARLEY	28.0	17.9	50.0
OATS	12.5	15.2	19.0
CORN	4.0	31.2	12.5
MILLET	3.0	8.3	2.5
BUCKWHEAT	2.0	7.4	1.5
RICE	.45	40.0	1.8
PULSES	6.5	13.8	9.0
TOTAL	126.0	15.9	200.0

2. EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO THE TASK FORCE INDICATES THAT LOSSES OF GRAIN FROM LODGING IN CERTAIN AREAS EARLIER THIS SEASON HAVE TURNED OUT RATHER SMALL. FOR EXAMPLE: UKRAINIAN MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE STATED HARVEST LARGEST ON RECORD AND WILL SUBSTANTIALLY EXCEED 40 MILLION TON PLAN (FBIS, SEPTEMBER 5). AVERAGE UKRAINE YIELDS NEAR END OF SMALL GRAIN HARVEST REPORTEDLY TOTALED ABOUT 29.2 Q/HA. COMPARED PREVIOUS RECORD OF 25.4 Q/HA. IN 1971 (IZVERTIYA, AUG. 9). A PRELIMINARY AVERAGE YIELD FOR THE NORTH CAUCASUS REPORTEDLY IS 26 Q/HA. COMPARED TO RECORD 24.5 IN 1970 (PRAVDA, AUGM 9). THESE AREAS REPOTEDLY HAD HEAVY DGING. HARVESTING OF WET GRAINN MAY ACTUALLY INCREASE GROSS GRAIN PRODUCTION.

3. FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE KEY INDICATIONS CITED BY TASK FORCE MEMBERS IN SUPPORT OF RECORD OR NEAR RECORD OVERALL USSR ESTIMATES OF YIELDS FOR THE DIFFERENCT CROPS:

A. A MAJOR REASON FOR INCREASING ESTIMATE WAS ABOVE NORMAL RAINFALL IN MUCH OF USSR FROM EARLY JULY THROUGH MID-AUGUST FAVORED DEVELOPMENT OF SPRING GRAINS ESPECIALLY SMALL GRAINS FROM THE VOLGA EASTWARD AND CORN IN THE UKRAINE.

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B. AN ARTICLE IN BRATISLAVA PRAVDA AUGUST 20, 1973, AND CARRIED IN FBIS ON AUGUST 28, STATED QUOTE IT IS TO BE EXPECTED THAT THIS YEAR'S PLAN TARGET OF 197 MILLION TONS OF GRAIN WILL BE OVERFULFILLED TO THE EXTENT OF BRINGING THE FINAL FIGURE CLOSE TO THE PLAN TARGET FOR LAST YEAR OF THE NINTH SOVIET 5-YEAR PLAN. UNQUOTE.

C. OVERALL PROGRESS OF GRAIN HARVEST AS OF SEPTEMBER 7 WAS

GENERALLY AHEAD OF PERFORMANCE OF RECENT YEARS.

D. PRELIMINARY YIELD DATA INDICATE RECORD OR NEAR RECORD CROPS
IN FOLLOWING WIDELY DISPERSED AREAS.

AREA	1973 YIELD Q/HA	RECORD Q/HA	YEAR OF RECORD FBIS 9/1	SOURCE
MOLDAVIA	33.4	29.3	1970	FBIS 9/1
SARATOV	17	14.3	1968	PRAVDA 8/24
VOLGOGRAD	18	17.6	1970	FBIS 9/4
BYELORUSSIA	24	21.4	1971	FBIS 8/10
RYAZAN	21	16.3	1969	FBIS 8/20
TAMBOV	26.5	20.1	1969	SEL ZHIZN 8/31

4. PUBLIC RELEASE OF UPWARD REVISIONS HAS NOT YET BEEN MADE.
DRAFT STATMENT NOW IN PREPARATION WILL BE REVIEWED BY FURTHER TASK
FORCE MEETING, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14. WOULD WELCOME ANY FURTHER
COMMENTS ON ABOVE POINTS FROM YOUR SIDE. (PLEASE CABLE REPLY FOR
ARRIVAL WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 13.). RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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